

"THE CLOSEST THING THE LITERARY WORLD HAS TO A ROCK STAR"*

DAVID SEDARIS

AT CAL PERFORMANCES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL

BERKELEY, September 20, 2004 – Best-selling author, award-winning playwright, NPR commentator and retired Macy's elf **David Sedaris** returns to Cal Performances for one night only, **Tuesday, November 9 at 8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall. Mr. Sedaris will read essays from his *New York Times* #1 best-selling book, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, as well as from never before heard work-in-progress.

While David Sedaris now consistently sells out venues across the country, including Carnegie Hall, his early days as a house-cleaner in New York City never foretold of such widespread recognition. Sedaris made his comic debut recounting his strange-but-true experiences of his job as a Macy's elf clad in green tights, reading his essay "SantaLand Diaries" on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*. Sedaris' sardonic humor and incisive social critique have since made him one of NPR's most popular and humorous commentators. But Sedaris isn't "just a working Joe who happens to put out these perfectly constructed pieces of prose," as *This American Life*'s Ira Glass puts it. The great skill with which Sedaris slices through euphemisms and political correctness proves that he is a master of satire.

David Sedaris is the author of the bestsellers *Barrel Fever* and *Holidays on Ice*, as well as collections of personal essays, *Naked* and *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, which immediately became a national bestseller. Sedaris and his sister, Amy Sedaris, have collaborated under the name "The Talent Family" and have written several plays, which have been produced at La Mama, Lincoln Center, and The Drama Department in New York City. Their plays include *Stump the Host*, *Stitches*, *One Woman Shoe*, (which received an Obie Award), *Incident at Cobbler's Knob*, and *The Book of Liz*. His essays appear regularly in *Esquire*, *GQ*, and *The New Yorker*.

* *The New York Times*

Sedaris' original radio pieces can often be heard on *This American Life*, distributed nationally by Public Radio International and produced by WBEZ in Chicago. In 2001, David Sedaris became the third recipient of the Thurber Prize for American Humor. He was named "Humorist of the Year" in 2001 by *Time Magazine*. His most recent book is *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*. It has been a *New York Times* and National bestseller since publication in June 2004.

STRICTLY SPEAKING

This is the second year of Cal Performances' popular **Strictly Speaking** series, a series of events designed to bring the most intriguing literary, cultural, scientific and political voices of the day to Bay Area audiences. The 2004/2005 season's Strictly Speaking guests scheduled *to date* include: **Paul Krugman** (Oct. 14), *New York Times* Op-Ed columnist, Princeton University economist and author of *The Great Unraveling*; and a live taping of National Public Radio's radio quiz show *Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me* (Feb. 17).

TICKET INFORMATION

This engagement is sold-out. Tickets for **David Sedaris** on **Tuesday, November 9** at **8:00 p.m.** in Zellerbach Hall are priced at **\$20.00, \$28.00, and \$38.00**, and may become available due to last minute returns. Call the Cal Performances Ticket Office at (510) 642-9988 for availability. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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The *San Francisco Chronicle* is a season sponsor of Cal Performances; *San Francisco* magazine and Classical 102.1 KDFC are season media sponsors of the 2004/05 performing arts season.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Tuesday, November 9 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Strictly Speaking
David Sedaris

Program:

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